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Title: The Soul of the Forest

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On many an occasion  
when I have strolled  
casually through  
the Deep Forest,  
contemplating, a  
wonderful notion has  
filled me. A notion  
of the life

surrounding me. The  
trees, the grass, the  
wildlife, even the  
rocks and air pulsate  
with a warm energy  
that links us all  
together. They lend us  
our life. Without them

we would not be, for  
they provide us with  
our life force, as we  
strengthen theirs.

It is a beneficial  
symbiosis, a  
cooperation between

creature, plant and  
matter that builds the  
world, which in its  
entirety itself is  
alive. The life of this  
world is what we  
should concern  
ourselves about, for

our role in life is to  
make it grow and  
flourish. This is a  
task we can only  
achieve by respecting  
ourselves as well as  
our fellow humans, as  
well as the creatures

in the forests, as well  
as the plants and the  
rocks on the ground,

and the air that we  
breathe. Without  
either, the wholeness  
in its beauty and life  
is lost. We should keep

this in mind, that  
wherever we go, we  
are a part of a  
wonderful whole, and  
by hurting others, we  
thus hurt what we  
ourselves are.

The eight Virtues are  
an exceptional tool in  
avoiding hurting the  
whole, but of all the  
eight Virtues, one is  
particularly important  
in the greater  
perspective: Justice.

Those that damage the  
world around them  
through their actions  
must be somehow  
made to stop, even  
when all efforts to  
peacefully convince  
them that what they

are doing does not  
bring anyone any good  
in the long run.  
Justice allows us to do  
this. Justice looks  
beyond the needs of  
the individual and  
seeks a greater

meaning, an optimal  
solution. Sometimes  
the use of force is  
necessary against  
those who would harm  
the innocent and  
damage our living  
universe, but the

force must always be  
tempered by rational  
Justice. Justice  
without force is  
impotent. Force  
without Justice is  
tyranny.

Finding the Just  
punishment, the  
optimal way to react to  
someone's illdeeds  
without causing  
anyone unnessecary  
pain is of utmost  
importance, but it is in

no sense of the  
word an easy task.  
For this reason the  
druids of Yew, the  
followers of this  
ancient philosophy,  
have created complex  
systems designed to

help us in our eternal  
task to enforce the  
Justice that the  
universe needs to  
flourish. The Great  
Court was constructed  
so that we would have  
a locale in which these

ceremonies of the  
system could be  
performed, the trials,  
and a jail was  
constructed on an islan  
beyond the court hall,  
in which those proven  
guilty of villainous

deeds could be held,  
kept from harming  
the world around them  
with their ignorance.  
We prefer to safely  
store away criminals  
in this fashin rather  
than to annihilate

them, for we believe  
that all bloodshed  
should be avoided at all  
costs, unless  
absolutely necessary.  
Alas, situations  
sometimes arise in  
which the only

alternative is to put a  
criminal to death or

risk suffering  
enormous  
consequences.  
Generally and  
fortunately, these  
situations quite

rarely arise.

We, the druids of Yew  
will always strive to  
uphold this our  
philosophy and to  
bring Justice to all.